KUMAGUSU-SAN, IT'S ALL FINE. SHE JUST SPOKE CARELESSLY, THAT'S ALL.

BUT ...

SFX: SMILE

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO, I'M SORRY ABOUT IT...

AHH

Sorry that the 2, 4 and 10 that you expected won't be coming.

There's no way they could any-more.

Chapter 4:
Hyakkaou Academy's Crazed Women

I REALLY LOVE WORD-PLAY

2, 4, 10... WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

NISHINO-TOUIN-SAN CARRIES SUCH A MEANING WITH HER, YES?

EVEN THOUGH IT'S YOUR OWN NAME.

EHH-- TH...THAT KIND OF PUN IS...

西洞院

にしのとういん

2 4 10 in

THE NAME NISHINO-TOUIN SAYS [2, 4 AND 10 IN], NO?*

IF YOU'VE PAID ATTEN-TION TO THAT, THERE'D BE NO WAY YOU WOULD BET ON ANY OTHER NUMBERS, RIGHT?

*TL.NOTE: 2 IS NI, 4 IS SHI, 10 IS TOU - NI-SHI-NO-TOU-IN (にしNI-SHI のNO とうTO-U いんI-N)

.....

COULD YOU REFRAIN FROM PLAYING WITH OTHERS' NAMES SO MUCH?

[NISHINOTOUIN] IS A PROPER, ESTEEMED NAME THAT STEMS FROM ANCIENT KYOTO, A LINEAGE WITH—

PLUS!

2

4

6

8

10

...

THOSE MUST BE NUMBERS YOU CAN'T BET ON, YES?

IF YOU COUNT THE EVEN NUMBERS, THE 6 AND 8 BETWEEN AREN'T THERE!

WHAT'S INSIDE IS GONE...*

*IT'S QUITE THE NAME FOR AN AIRHEAD, ISN'T IT? SINCE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT IN THERE...**

TL. NOTE: THIS IS ANOTHER PUN; THE 'INSIDES' OR 'ONES BETWEEN' IS 'AIDA' (間), WHICH CAN ALSO BE READ AS 'MA'; 'GONE' OR 'TAKEN AWAY' IS 'NU-KE' (抜け) - 'MANUKE' (間抜け) IS 'IDIOT'

AHA!

HOW INTER-ESTING~

HOW DARE YOU... CUT IT OUT ALREADY!!

UFU

UFU-
FUFU-
FUFU
...

賭ケグルイ 1

YOU TRULY ARE AS THEY SAY, YOU WHO EVEN THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SEEKS.

YOU ARE TRULY INTEREST-ING...

TO BE SHOWERED WITH SUCH PRAISE... I'M REALLY NOT WORTHY.

WELL, SHALL WE CON-TINUE?

HOW MUCH SHALL WE PLACE FOR BETS?

INTEREST-ING...

AH YES~

IT'S BORING IF NOBODY HITS [LIFE] OR [DEATH], SO

Every-thing I have left,

all 40 chips here, please!

...YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, HAVE YOU?

.....

BOTH PARTIES ARE IN AGREE-MENT?

WHAT COULD YOU GAIN BY EARNING THE STU-DENT COUNCIL'S ANGER?

WHAT IS SHE DOING?

WHA-

I SHALL PLACE TEN [SWORDS] INTO THE POT.

NOW... IT'S ALL SET, ALL SET!

10

I CAN'T, I CAN'T...

TO LOSE MY TEMPER AT SUCH MERE INSULTS WOULD BRING SHAME ONTO THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S NAME.

HOWEVER EVEN IF I WERE TO WIN JUST LIKE THIS, PSYCHOLOGICALLY I WOULD NOT BENEFIT...

STRESS IS A HUGE ENEMY TO ONE'S BEAUTY...

9

THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT RESPECTS THOSE FOR INDIVIDUAL SKILL, BUT...

FUFU, AS THE NAME DICTATES...

[LIFE OR DEATH]
...

WITH RESPECT, I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

SHE'S DEFINITELY ANGRY... AFTER ALL IT WAS UNWISE TO PROVOKE HER...

NO WAY... IF SHE JUST WANTS YUMEKO'S CHIPS TO FALL BELOW ZERO THERE'S NO NEED TO PLACE BETS IN SO MANY SPOTS

UWAH

5 CHIPS EACH IN 8 SPOTS ...

NISHINO-TOUNIN-SAN, I APOLOGISE IF I HAVE AFFECTED YOUR MOOD.

HE-HEH.

6

5

AH, I DIDN'T PAY IT ANY MIND.

MORE THAN THAT, TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

4

HMPH... WHAT IS IT, ALL OF A SUDDEN...

IT WAS ALL...

FROM THE START

only for the sake of making you bet *HERE*, so please forgive me for my rudeness.

AH...?!

EH?

……

ZERO, TIME'S UP.

NO MORE--

...BETS ...

ALL 40 CHIPS ON 24...?

A-AH ...

WH-WHY ...

CHEAT-ING...?

YEAH, PLEASE LOOK AT THE DEALER'S RIGHT HAND,

THERE ARE SMALL DOTS THAT LOOK AT MOLES AT FIRST SIGHT, YES?

WHY ...?

BECAUSE YOU ARE CHEATING, THAT'S WHY.

IT'S SOMETHING SUBTLE LIKE PIERCING.

AND FOR THE SAKE OF THIS TRICKERY, MAKING CLUB MEMBERS GO TO THE LENGTH OF PIERCING THEIR HANDS...

WHAT DOES THAT...?

EH, WH-

BASICALLY, I'M SAYING THAT THOSE 'MOLES' WERE MADE ARTIFICIALLY.

THE GIRL WHO SHOWED US AROUND HERE ALSO HAD THE SAME 'MOLES' ON HER HAND.

YOU DO SUCH INCREDIBLE THINGS, DON'T YOU ♡

FUFUFU, NISHINO-TOUIN-SAN,

CONTAINS A POLARISED MAGNET.

N

S

MOST LIKELY, JUST ONE OF THE [SWORDS] IN THE SET

SLIDE YOUR HAND DOWN THE POT

AND BE ABLE TO HAVE THE [SWORD] LAND ANYWHERE YOU LIKE ON THE BOARD.

THE [SWORD] CAN BE SECURED DURING THE SHAKING DUE TO THE MAGNETS.

IF THE DEALER CONTROLS THEIR STRENGTH OF MOVEMENT CAREFULLY...

AFTER THAT, YOU SHAKE THE POT AND LIKE THIS...

TRULY, IF SHE WAS CHEATING...

SO THAT WAS ALL FOR THIS ONE SHOT.

I WAS WONDERING WHY SHE PROVOKED HER, BUT...

I-IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE...

SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE, I HAVE NOT ONCE BETTED ON THE RIGHT POSITION FOR [LIFE].

YOUR FRIEND ALSO BETTED AS THE POT WAS SHAKEN,

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING DURING THAT TIME!

W-

WAIT A MOMENT, PLEASE!

there isn't a "100% chance of winning."

THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS METHOD OF CHEATING IS THAT

EVEN IF YOU CONTROL THE [SWORD] WITH THE HAND'S MOVEMENT, IT'S NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL FALL INTO THE RIGHT SLOT.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT ANOTHER [SWORD] MAY BE BLOCKING THE WAY.

AFTER ALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE [SWORD] YOU CAN CONTROL SO THE REST IS UP TO CHANCE.

AN UNCERTAIN TRICKERY...

THAT'S WHY SAOTOME-SAN DID NOT DISCOVER YOUR TRICK.

THE ACTUAL PROBABILITIES WOULD STILL BE SMALL IF QUANTIFIED, YES?

CERTAINLY HAVE ACCESS TO A SOLID STORE OF MONEY.

YOU, WHO IS THE TRADITIONAL CULTURE RESEARCH CLUB'S PRESIDENT AND A STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

BUT YOU WERE PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH THAT.

IF SO, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU WILL LOSE... AS LONG AS YOUR CHANCES ARE JUST SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN YOUR OPPONENT'S.

YOU CAN STEADILY GAIN [PLUS] AND RAKE IN THE MONEY.

WITH TENS, HUNDREDS OF REPETITIONS LIKE THIS, WITH EACH GAME...

.....

"FOR WHOEVER HAS, TO HIM MORE SHALL BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE; BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE, EVEN WHAT HE HAS SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM."

(GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 13:12, THE BIBLE)

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ONE OWNS ULTIMATELY DECIDES THE VICTOR.

THIS DOESN'T STOP WITHIN THE WALLS OF A CASINO, OR ITS CASH FLOW.

IT'S A RULE THAT FORMS THE BASIS FOR A CAPITALIST SOCIETY!

But your Wealth!

At the heart of that cheating laid not a 'trick'

賭ケグルイ 1

怖い怖い

EVEN WHEN SAOTOME-SAN BET FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TAKING YOU DOWN, YOU WEREN'T STRESSED AT ALL.

100円

SURELY IT WOULDN'T HURT YOU MUCH TO LOSE A FEW TENS OF MILLIONS.

I BETTED ALL THE MONEY I HAVE TO MY NAME,

IT'S NOT FAIR!

I WOULDN'T CALL THAT A FAIR GAMBLE!

LET'S FEEL THE SAME PAIN!

MY BET IS 40 CHIPS. IF IT HAP-PENS TO HIT [LIFE], YOUR LOSS WILL BE...

2 BILLION, 170 MILLION YEN!

UFUFU...

YOU MIGHT LOSE SO MUCH MONEY JUST IN ONE GAMBLE...

JUST AS IT'S CALLED, [LIFE OR DEATH].

COME...

LET'S GAMBLE INTO A CRAZE!

YU-YURIKO-SAMA...

WILL YOU PLEASE OPEN THE POT?!

DECIDE IT! NOW!!

BUT I CAN'T JUST MOVE SO MUCH MONEY ALL OF A SUDDEN!

2-2 BILLION, 170 MILLION... I CAN STILL PAY THAT MUCH... RIGHT...?

WITHOUT THEIR MONEY, MY POSITION WITHIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL WILL BE...!

I'D HAVE TO POOL ALL THE MONEY THE CLUB MEMBERS HERE HAVE AND PAY IT AS [DONATION], BUT...

BE RUINED!

I... I HAVE TO NEGOTIATE...

BEFORE THE POT IS OPENED...

YU-

YUMEKO-SAN...

SFX: OPEN

THE BENEFITS OF BEING A STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER ARE HUGE

Student Council

MONEY AND STATUS IS JUST A THOUGHT AWAY

AS LONG AS I STAY WITHIN IT, I CAN STAY OUT OF DEBT AND KEEP THESE GIRLS SAFE FROM SLAVERY TOO

IF NOT, EVERYTHING WILL BE DESTROYED... ALL WILL

EH...? THE ST-STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT...?

PRESI-DENT ...!? WH-WHY

P-

IT'S BECOME QUITE AN IN-TERESTING SITUATION, HASN'T IT...

T- TO BOTHER PRESI-DENT'S HANDS WITH SUCH MENIAL DUTIES WOULD BE PREPOS-TEROUS

SUCH SMALL MATTERS CAN BE HANDLED BY ME...

WITH THE RISE OF THE AMOUNT THAT'S BETTED, TROUBLE CAN FOLLOW.

I'LL WATCH OVER YOU, ALRIGHT?

PLEASE EXCUSE US.

Shut up and open it.

GAME!

YURIKO-CHAN'S GONE ALL GREEN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT--?

NYAHA-HAHA!

YURIKO-SAMA...

...WELL THEN, I WILL OPEN...

AH?!

.....

[DEATH] ON 10 AND...

[LIFE] ON 7!

24 WASN'T HIT... IT WASN'T...?

EH... S-SEVEN...?

EXACTLY WHAT I HAD BETTED?

N- NO... THAT CAN'T...

Y-
YOU'RE
KID-
DING...

YUMEKO
LOST...?

THE CHIPS ARE
195 [PLUS]
FOR YURIKO-
SAMA AND 115
[MINUS] FOR
JYABAMI-
SAMA...

YURIKO-
SAMA
HAS HIT 5
CHIPS ON
[LIFE],
SO

YURIKO-
SAMA,
CONG-
RATULA-
TIONS!

WHY...?

AM I
DREAMING...?

COULD
IT BE...

H-NN

GAME ENDS
AT YURIKO-
SAMA'S WIN
BY 310
MILLION
YEN!

YURIKO, YOU'RE QUITE LUCKY, AREN'T YOU?

I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY *WIN*, YOU KNOW.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S A SHAME FOR YOU

TO LOSE BY SUCH TERRIBLE LUCK EVEN THOUGH YOU TRIED SO HARD.

.....

WELL

A [BADGER], WAS IT?

WHO KNOWS.

NYAHA-HAHA!

FOR IT TO BE SUCH A THING...

...
YUME KO?

SFX: OPEN

310 MILLION YEN... WHAT WILL YOU DO?

D-DO YOU HAVE IN-HERITANCE OR SOME-THING?

THIS ROOM IS DIRECTLY BELOW THE CHA-DO ROOM.

AN ORDINARY CLASSROOM, NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT IT...

...?

WHAT IS CALLED A [BADGER] IS AN OLD TYPE OF TRICKERY FOR CHOUHAN-BOKUCHI.

FIRST, A SMALL HOLE IS OPENED IN THE FLOOR.

ABOVE THAT, THE GAME OF CHOUHAN-BOKUCHI GOES ON, BUT BECAUSE IT IS COVERED BY WHITE CLOTH THE HOLE IS NOT VISIBLE AT A GLANCE.

Diagram

NEXT, THERE'S SPACE UNDER-NEATH JAPANESE HOUSES' FLOORS, YES?

A TRICK-STER HIDES THERE IN THE SPACE.

THE TRICKSTER CHECKS THE NUMBERS ON THE DIE BY THE LIGHT OF A CANDLE THROUGH THE WHITE CLOTH...

AND DEPENDING ON THE DESIRED OUTCOME, THEY STAB A NEEDLE THROUGH THE CLOTH AND MOVE THE DICE.

THIS WAY, THE OUTCOME WILL ALWAYS BE BENEFICIAL TO THE BOOKMAKER OF THE GAME.

TRICK-STERS OF THE PAST WORKED WITH MUCH SIMPLER THOUGHTS AND A SLOWER PACE.

AHH... SPEAKING OF WHICH, I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD ABOUT SOME-THING,

BUT THAT?

FUFU ...

THIS IS BEYOND MY WILDEST IMAGINATION. THIS SCHOOL... NO, THE STU-DENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

...IT'S MOST POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESIDENT DID THE SAME THING WITH MAGNETS.

EH?

THE [SWORD] THAT HAD FALLEN INTO THE 24 SLOT WAS REPELLED BY AN OPPOSING MAGNET.

N S

...NO, NOT THAT, BUT THAT ONLY WORKS BECAUSE JAPANESE HOUSES HAVE SPACE BENEATH THE FLOOR, RIGHT?

THIS CLASSROOM IS RIGHT UNDER THE CHA-DO ROOM, SO THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN...

NISHINO-TOUIN-SAN DIDN'T KNOW, BY THE LOOKS OF IT.

...AND SO, A SINGLE [SWORD] FALLING SOMEWHERE ELSE CAN BE CALLED OFF AS PURE LUCK.

If there's no space, why not just make your own?

MAKE ...?

YES, IT'LL WORK AS LONG AS THERE IS ROOM BETWEEN FLOORS, NO?

IF SO, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS ***BUILD A BUILDING LIKE THAT.***

IT'S STILL POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESIDENT RENOVATED FOR THE SAKE OF THAT ONE GAMBLE...

THIS BUILDING MAY NOT HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT FROM THE START, BUT

NORMALLY YOU WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT AS A POSSIBILITY... IT'S BEYOND THE REALMS OF THOUGHT, UNLESS

UNLESS

IT'S A CRAZED PERSON.

AHH... IT WOULD BE SO WONDERFUL IF THAT WAS TRUE!

THAT'S TRUE... IT'S QUITE A RIDICULOUS THING TO SAY.

WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HOW MUCH WORK WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN FOR SUCH A LITTLE THING?

I'VE DECIDED!

YEP,

.....

I want to gamble with the Student Council President!

賭ケグルイ 1　End

Chapter 4

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